



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
EUGENE I. GESSOW, DIRECTOR

## Interoffice Memorandum Division of Child and Family Services

**To:** DHS Services Area Managers  
Chief Juvenile Court Officers  
Emergency Juvenile Shelter Care Providers  
**From:** Mary Nelson, Division Administrator  
**Date:** November 17, 2008  
**Subject:** Child Welfare Emergency Services proposals

At its October 14, 2008 meeting, the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) discussed the planning that occurred this summer that resulted in child welfare emergency services proposals from seven shelters. Committee Members were positive about DHS efforts to facilitate the local planning sessions and the resulting proposals that were developed. Planning approaches varied across the state, but many of these sessions included a considerable number of local partners attempting to address the issue collaboratively. Final proposals collectively offered to shift funds from 11 beds for eight months (currently 60+ beds go unused each day). Between November 2008 and June 2009 these proposals will shift funds totaling about \$246,000. Annualized, about \$372,000 would be shifted to child welfare emergency services.

Nevertheless, several CWAC members expressed concerns that too few shelters stepped forward to shift funds from the guaranteed payment/unused beds to develop or enhance child welfare emergency services, and that the total dollars shifted from unused beds to emergency child welfare services did not approach the \$1 million that was restored by the Legislature last year. Members expressed further concern that this would place shelter care funding for FY 2010 at risk. As a result, the CWAC recommended that I send out a note encouraging all parties to come back to the planning table to explore further options for shifting funding from unused guaranteed shelter beds to alternative child welfare emergency services. Although we initially requested that proposals be submitted by October 1, 2008, the DHS will also consider proposals submitted after that date. I am asking Jim Chesnik to follow up individually with the director of each shelter to find out more about their potential interest in taking advantage of this opportunity, and to identify any barriers to moving forward.

cc: Molly Kottmeyer, DHS  
Margaret Wright, DHS  
Dave Discher, Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa  
Ann Harrmann, Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa  
CWAC Members

MN/JC